

June 20, 2002

**MANDATED BAR CODE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION VERSION 2.0
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes a mandate for the installation and implementation of Veterans Health Information and Technology Architecture (*VistA*) Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) version 2.0 at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers by November 30, 2002.

2. BACKGROUND

a. BCMA is a *VistA* module that increases efficiency in medication administration, improves medication administration accuracy, and provides online patient medication records. At the direction of the Under Secretary for Health, the Office of Information and the Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group embarked upon a bar coded medication administration solution to reduce inaccurate medication administrations, thereby enhancing patient safety. Class III software created by the Heartland Veterans Health was modified to meet the general needs of all VA medical centers. BCMA Version 1.0 was released nationally in August 1999, and implementation of the software was completed in June 2000. Users are able to electronically document medications at the bedside or other points of care. Use of bar code technology, in conjunction with real-time medication information, provides easily accessible data that enhances clinical decision-making, as well as case management.

b. BCMA version 2.0 was released on May 22, 2002, and includes Intravenous functionality along with the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) Medication Order Button to allow ordering and documentation of stat and one-time medications directly from the BCMA Virtual Due List screen. These enhancements are necessary in order to safely use BCMA in intensive care units. Other enhancements included in this version are report generation through the CPRS Graphical User Interface and administration and documentation improvements requested by end users. On May 2, 2002, the Under Secretary for Health signed a memorandum approving a six-month implementation period for BCMA Version 2.0.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that BCMA v2.0 is to be installed and implemented in all VA medical centers by November 30, 2002.

4. ACTION: Facility Directors are responsible for ensuring that their sites have installed and implemented BCMA v2.0 by November 30, 2002.

5. REFERENCES: None.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Information Officer (19) is responsible for the content of this VHA directive.

THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES NOVEMBER 30, 2002

VHA DIRECTIVE 2002-035

June 20, 2002

7. RESCISSIONS: None. This VHA Directive expires November 30, 2002.

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